

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A battery comprising a wound electrode group (~~1, 30, 33~~) accommodated in a battery case (17) together with electrolyte, and a sealing plate (18) ~~for sealing~~ that is configured to seal an open end of the battery case (17), wherein

the wound electrode group (~~1, 30, 33~~) ~~is composed of~~ comprises an electrode stack (7) ~~that is formed by laminating~~ includes a lamination of a strip of positive electrode plate (2), a strip of negative electrode plate (3), and a pair of separators (4A, 4B) interposed therebetween so as to cover both surfaces of one of the positive and negative electrode plates, and

when the electrode stack (7) is wound around, a difference L in length between an inner turn and an adjacent outer turn satisfies $L = 2t\pi + (W \times k)$, where t is a thickness of the electrode stack (7), W is a maximum diameter of a cross section of the wound electrode group (~~1, 30, 33~~), and k is a coefficient that is preset in accordance with expansion coefficients of active materials of the positive and negative electrode plates (~~2, 3~~) and is within a range of from 0.005 to 0.05.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a wound electrode group wherein an electrode stack (7) is wound around a winding core (12, 13, 31, 32, 34, 37) to form a wound electrode group (1, 30, 33), the electrode stack being formed by laminating a strip of positive electrode plate (2), a strip of negative electrode plate (3), and a pair of separators (4A, 4B) interposed therebetween so as to cover both surfaces of one of the positive and negative electrode plates, the method comprising steps of:

setting a spacer (14) having predetermined dimensions at one or a plurality of locations between two adjacent turns (Ca, Cb) of the electrode stack (7) halfway in the process of winding the electrode stack (7) and winding them, and

removing the winding cores (12, 13, 31, 32, 34, 37) and the spacer (14) after fixing a winding end of the electrode stack (7) with a fixing member (10) after the completion of the winding process.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a wound electrode group according to claim 2, wherein the electrode stack (7) is wound into the electrode group (1, 30, 33) in which such that a difference L in length between each one turn of two adjacent inner turn (Ca) and outer turn (Cb) turns satisfies $L = 2t\pi + (W \times k)$, where t is a thickness of the electrode stack (7), W is a maximum diameter of a cross section of the wound electrode group (1, 30, 33) to be formed by winding the electrode stack (7), and k is a coefficient that is preset in accordance with expansion coefficients of active materials of the positive and

negative electrode plates ~~(2, 3)~~ during battery use; and the spacer ~~(14)~~ has a thickness that achieves a total sum of the differences L.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a wound electrode group according to claim 3, wherein the coefficient k is selected from a range of from 0.005 to 0.05 in accordance with the number of the spacers ~~(14)~~ being set.
5. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a wound electrode group according to claim 2, wherein the spacer ~~(14)~~ is a bar-like member having a lens-like cross section with no sharp edges.
6. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a wound electrode group according to claim 4, wherein the spacer ~~(14)~~ is a bar-like member having a lens-like cross section with no sharp edges.